Convocation and Commencement

- **Are Commencement and Convocation the same event?**
  No, Commencement is a University-wide ceremony for all students of Northwestern University and Convocation is a ceremony held by each individual school of Northwestern University.

- **Must I attend both Convocation and Commencement?**
  Although you are encouraged to attend both ceremonies, it is not mandatory that you participate. Students can elect to attend either or both events.

- **When is Convocation for the School of Professional Studies?**
  Convocation for the School of Professional Studies is **Friday, June 17, 2016** at 1:00 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre (50 E. Congress Parkway). For additional information, please visit: [http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php](http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php)

- **Can graduate students who received their degrees in December 2015 participate in Commencement/Convocation?**
  Yes, they may participate in Commencement and the School of Professional Studies Convocation ceremony.

- **Can undergraduate students who will receive their degrees in summer of 2016 participate in Commencement/Convocation?**
  Yes, as long as all of the degree requirements are completed by **August 2016** and all fees are paid they may participate in Commencement and the School of Professional Studies Convocation ceremony.

- **Can graduate students who will receive their degrees in summer of 2016 participate in Commencement/Convocation?**
  No, graduate students who will receive their degree in summer 2016 will not be eligible to participate in Commencement and the School of Professional Studies Convocation.

- **Where can I find a list of SPS graduates?**
  During Convocation, guests will receive a program listing the names of graduates and the program that they completed. The names of undergraduate students who will graduate in Summer 2016 will be included in the SPS Convocation Ceremony. However, the names of Summer 2016 undergraduate students will not be included in the University-wide Commencement program listing.
• Will graduates sit with their families during Commencement and Convocation?
No, SPS graduates will enter Commencement in a procession and sit in a designated section. During Convocation, students will enter the theatre by program area and will sit with their program group in no particular order.

• Will our names be called in alphabetical order during Convocation?
No. When proceeding to the stage, each student will present a card that has the phonetic spelling of his or her name and the Dean will read the name aloud.

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Questions about Diplomas

• Must I attend Convocation in order to receive my diploma?
No, all diplomas will be mailed to the address that students provide on their Application for Degree or Program Completion Form. If the address supplied on your Application for Degree or Program Completion Form has changed, please email the Registrar with your updated address for the diploma mailing: onlinereg@northwestern.edu

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Accommodations at Convocation for the School of Professional Studies

• Is accessible seating available during the Convocation Ceremony?
Yes, the entrance into the Auditorium Theatre is wheelchair accessible. By prior arrangement, guests that are hearing impaired and guests who use their own wheelchairs will be seated in a designated area in the theatre. Graduates whose guest(s) require wheelchair accommodations and need the assistance of a companion will use two of the student’s allotted tickets. Parking for persons is limited and may not be reserved. Please contact spsconvocation@northwestern.edu for wheelchair or hearing impaired seating.

• Will there be an interpreter present during the Convocation Ceremony?
An interpreter will be present from CAIRS (Chicago Area Interpreter Referral Service) for the hearing impaired.

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Lodging and Transportation

• Is lodging available in Evanston for Commencement and Convocation?
Yes, lodging is available at several hotels in Evanston. For additional information, please visit this website: http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/staying-in-evanston/index.html.

If you or your guests wish to stay in downtown Chicago to be close to the School of Professional Studies Convocation Ceremony, please follow the link to a list of Chicago Hotels.

Neither of these lists are suggestions of where to stay, but are lists of what is available in the proximity of Northwestern University and School of Professional Studies events.

• How do I get to Ryan Field for Commencement?
Ryan Field is located at 1501 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60208. Since traffic will be heavy and parking at Ryan Field is limited, we recommend taking public transportation. Ryan Field is an equally convenient distance from the CTA Purple Line or the Union Pacific North Line. If you are planning to drive, click here for driving directions and campus parking information.

- Will there be transportation to Commencement on the Evanston campus?
  Yes, the University will provide continuous complimentary shuttle bus service to Commencement from designated stops on the Evanston campus. Guests are urged to park in campus lots and use the shuttle bus service. For additional information, please visit http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/transportation/index.html.

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- How do I get to the Auditorium Theatre for Convocation?
  The Auditorium Theatre is located at 50 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago, IL, 60605. We recommend taking public transportation. The Auditorium Theatre is an equally convenient distance from the CTA Red Line, CTA Brown Line, or CTA Blue Line. If you do choose to drive, please visit http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/plan-your-visit/parking-and-directions/ for information on public parking.

- Will there be transportation to SPS Convocation?
  No, transportation is not provided. Students and their guests are responsible for their own transportation to the Convocation Ceremony.

Caps and Gowns

- Must I wear a cap and gown to Commencement and Convocation?
  Yes, a cap and gown must be worn to the Commencement and Convocation Ceremonies. Caps and gowns must not be altered or adorned. Please be sure to order your caps and gowns through Herff Jones: http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/cap-gown-rental/index.html

- How are caps and gowns distributed?
  Academic regalia can be picked up at the Norris University Center on the Evanston campus on the following dates:
  - Undergraduates
    Tuesday, June 14, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
  - Advanced Degree Candidates (and Distance Learners)
    Wednesday, June 15, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
  - Any remaining graduates (and Distance Learners)
    Thursday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
  *dates subject to change

  All caps and gowns can be returned at the Auditorium Theatre following the convocation ceremony. If you are unable to return your cap and gown after the ceremony, you must return it to Herff Jones directly. For additional cap and gown information visit: http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/cap-gown-rental/index.html

- If I cannot pick up my cap and gown, how can I get them?
  All students are responsible for ordering and picking up their caps and gowns on the designated pick up date. If you are unable to pick up your cap and gown on the designated date, please contact the Commencement office at commencement@northwestern.edu
Tickets for Commencement

- **How many guest tickets will I get for Commencement?**
  Commencement tickets are e-tickets that can be printed off immediately after you make your reservation. For details regarding the number of tickets and additional information, please visit [http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/tickets/index.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/tickets/index.html)

Tickets for School of Professional Studies Convocation Ceremony

- **How many guest tickets will I get for Convocation?**
  Students participating in the convocation ceremony may reserve an initial number of 5 guest tickets. Information regarding extra tickets will be released in May via email. Please no phone inquiries regarding extra tickets. Convocation tickets are physical tickets that will be picked up with your cap and gown. For additional information and the ceremony schedule, please visit [http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php](http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php)

- **Are tickets required for children attending Convocation?**
  Yes, whether they are held or occupy a seat, children one year of age and older will need a ticket.

Photography

- **Will a photographer be on site to take pictures?**
  Yes, a photographer from GradImages will be on site to take pictures of graduates during Convocation and pictures will be available for purchase. Students will be contacted by a GradImages representative to place orders for Convocation pictures.

Ordering Commencement Merchandise

- **How do I order announcements, thank-you notes, and memorabilia?**
  Students may order Northwestern University graduation announcements, thank you notes, class rings and memorabilia by visiting these websites:

  Northwestern University Bookstore: [Northwestern University Bookstore](http://www.northwestern.edu/bookstore)
  Features school spirit merchandise, books and other gift items. For information, call 847-491-3990.

  Northwestern Alumni Association: [Northwestern University Alumni Association](http://www.northwestern.edu/alumni)
  The Alumni Association website offers special access to high-quality products and class rings.

  Herff Jones: [Herff Jones Website](http://www.herffjones.com)
  Herff Jones offers Northwestern University graduation announcements, custom thank you notes and related memorabilia.